

Claims

1. A method for providing multimedia messages between an originating terminal unit and a receiving terminal unit, comprising:

5 receiving transmission data including a text message from the originating terminal unit;

 obtaining an identifier of the originating terminal unit—hereinafter referred to as an "originating terminal identifier"—on the basis of the transmission data,
10 searching an information database using the originating terminal identifier to obtain an avatar image of an originator, and creating a multimedia message, in which the avatar image and the text message are displayed as a single image, by combining an image of the text message with the
15 avatar image;

 obtaining an identifier of the receiving terminal unit—hereinafter referred to as a "receiving terminal identifier"—on the basis of the transmission data, searching the information database using the receiving
20 terminal identifier to obtain profile information about the receiving terminal unit, and determining whether the receiving terminal unit has capability of receiving, processing and displaying the multimedia message in a message format on the basis of the profile information;

25 (1) if it is determined that the receiving terminal

unit has the capability, transmitting the multimedia message to the receiving terminal unit in a message format;
(2) while if it is determined that the receiving terminal unit does not have the capability, placing the multimedia message at a specific location on a mobile communication network, reconstructing the text message to allow access information to the location to be included in the text message, and transmitting the reconstructed text message to the receiving terminal unit, thus providing the multimedia message to browsing means of the receiving terminal unit when the browsing means attempts to access the location.

2. The multimedia message provision method according to claim 1, further comprising downloading the avatar image to the receiving terminal unit in response to a request from the receiving terminal unit.

3. A computer-readable recording medium for storing a program for implementing the multimedia message provision method of claim 1 or 2.